

- - REMARKS - -

Claims 9-10 were pending in the application. No amendments have been made pursuant to the filing of this response.

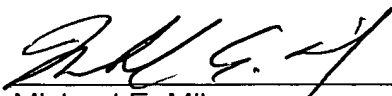
In the final Office Action dated February 13, 2003, claims 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,388,660 to Manser et al. (hereinafter "Manser"). The claim rejections were respectfully traversed in a Response filed on April 23, 2003. The reasons for the traversal are set forth in detail in the Response and will not be repeated here.

An Advisory Action was subsequently mailed on June 18, 2003. As set forth in the Advisory Action, the Examiner is maintaining the rejection of claims 9-10 as being unpatentable over Manser. In particular, the Examiner has asserted that Manser discloses that the operation of each of the switches 20 is switched by sliding a cover (switches 20) disposed on a touch pad 16 to the touch pad side, or by sliding the cover (switches 20) to a side apart from the touch pad 16. As a consequence, it should be apparent that only two types of input commands can be set for each switch because the operation of each of the switches 20 is switched by sliding a cover (switches 20) to the touch pad side, or by sliding the cover (switches 20) to a side apart from the touch pad 16.

Independent claim 9, on the other hand, requires that when each of the four switches is switched to an ON state, setting or changing of the input commands for the operation of each switch can be performed by setting various input commands generated by the switch input section driver. Thus, three or more types of input commands can be set (or changed) for each switch, not the two types disclosed in Manser. Accordingly, independent claim 9 is not rendered unpatentable by this prior art reference. Claim 10 is dependent on claim 9 and is likewise patentable.

The pending claims are believed to truly distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, such allowance is now earnestly requested. If for any reason the Examiner is not able to allow the application, he is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4273.

Respectfully submitted,



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